

Abstract

A system and method for monitoring carbon dioxide production during a dough leavening process to improve the efficiency and quality of the baking process. A yeast dough is placed in an oven for rising and baking. A carbon dioxide sensor is connected to the oven to sense the carbon dioxide in the oven atmosphere, and a monitoring device monitors the signal from the carbon dioxide sensor to provide an output indicative of the substantial end of the rising stage, and may automatically control the oven to begin baking.